

AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 2, before the third line of text:

Strand E is SEQ ID NO: 5 and strand S is SEQ ID NO: 8.

Please amend the paragraph on page 15, lines 29-33 as follows:

RS2-T, 5'-d(GATATCCTGACTCCCTATAGTGAGTCGTATTA)-3' (SEQ ID NO:1); RS2-C, 5'-d(TAATACGACTCACTATAGGGAGTCAGGATATCTGCA)-3' (SEQ ID NO:2); RE1-T, 5'-d(GGAGTTTCGGCCTAACGGCCTCATCAGAGGACCCTATAGTGAGTCGTATTA)-3' (SEQ ID NO:3); and RE2-C, 5'-d(TAATACGACTCACTATAGGGTCCTCTGATGAGGCCGTTAGGCCGAACTCCTGCA)-3' (SEQ ID NO:4).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 17 line 25 and ending on page 18, line 4 as follows:

Preparation of oligoribonucleotides: The following oligoribonucleotides were prepared

a.) by run off transcription (sequences given without the 5'-triphosphate):

E1, 5'-GGGUCCUCUGAUGAGGCCGUUAGGCCGAAACUCC-3' (SEQ ID NO:5);

E2, [[,]] 5'-GGG(2'-FU)CC(2'-FU)C(2'-FU)GA(2'-FU)GAGGCCG(2'-FU)(2'-FU)AGGCCGAAAC(2'-FU)CC-3' (SEQ ID NO:6) and

E3, 5'-GGG(2'-NH₂U)CC(2'-NH₂U)C(2'-NH₂U)GA(2'-NH₂U)GAGGCCG(2'-NH₂U)(2'-NH₂U)AGGCCGAAAC(2'-NH₂U)CC-3' (SEQ ID NO:7);

S1, 5'-GGGAGUCAGGAU-3' (SEQ ID NO:8); S3, 5'-GGGAG(2'-FU)CAGGA(2'-FU)-3' (SEQ ID NO:9) and S4, 5'-GGGAGU(2'-FC)AGGAU-3' (SEQ ID NO:10).

b.) by chemical synthesis: The oligoribonucleotides E1, E2, E3, S1 and S2, 5'-GGGAG(2'-NH₂U)CAGGAU-3' (SEQ ID NO:11).

Amendments to the Figures:

Please replace figures 1, 5, and 9 with amended figures 1, 5, and 9. Amended figures 1, 5, and 9 are attached as marked-up redlined versions, as well as clean versions.

- Figure 1 is amended by insertion of "(SEQ ID NO:12)" and "(SEQ ID NO:8)" in part A of the figure, and by insertion of "(SEQ ID NO:13)" and "(SEQ ID NO:14)" in part B.

- Figure 5 is amended by insertion of "(SEQ ID NO:9)".

- Figure 9 is amended by insertion of "(SEQ ID NO:15)".